flower types in hibiscus, and have them on plants and roots which would withstand lower temperatures. But this will take time.

My own interest in hibiscus dates back 20 years to a tour of duty at the University of Hawaii. At that time, A. M. Bush was the head gardener and while I was in Economics, not Horticulture, I became interested in the large number of hibiscus varieties which he had carefully labelled on the campus. Pleased with this interest, Mr. Bush took me into his private garden and showed me his plot of seedlings, most of them in bloom, and demonstrated his method of pollinizing. He also introduced me to Mr. J. A. Johnson who lived near the University and I began to follow him around. He gave me some seed to try out, and that did it!

When I returned to the mainland, I began to collect and observe every species and variety of hibiscus that I could lay my hands on. Fortunately, my work took me to Florida, Texas, Hawaii, the West Indies and even the greenhouses of Europe, so I had an opportunity to not only observe, but study and collect. Even at that time, I was imbued with the idea that I should try to develop special varieties for our Southern California conditions. I reasoned that if a cross between a native Hawaiian white and a strong Rosa-Sinensis could result in an Agnes Galt (which did quite well here) other varieties of equal or better qualities could be developed through hybridization.

From the first, too, I felt that the commercial grower would benefit from such a program. In fact, it seemed to me, as it does now, that little progress can be made without the interest of these factors. So in making selections from seedlings, I have always kept in mind the fact that any acceptable variety is a good commercial variety, for only in commercial hands can we be assured of their wide dissemination, and enjoyment. For Southern California then, an acceptable variety is one that will grow and flower

well over a long season. It should grow well on its own roots and root easily; it should have a strong, well foliated plant structure and a bloom that will stand up under strong sunlight without fading for at least two days. Bloom should be precocious and prolific. That is a real big order, but not an impossible one; in fact, I have gone far enough to be sure that a few more years of uninterrupted work will give us these qualities, in all of many colors.

But I have had my troubles. After several seasons, I found that I could get only a limited amount of seed under outside conditions, and it was not until 1947 that I was able to get a greenhouse to work in. Fortunately, by that time, I had grown and recorded the special qualities of over 500 hybrids and of several related species and this gave me something to work on. I had also developed a few seedlings by that time.

But I soon learned that even under greenhouse conditions the business of getting seed was not easy, particularly of the crosses that I wanted. The next job was to develop an automatic system whereby it is now Honolulu in my greenhouse all the time, even to the leaf washing of liquid sunshine every day.

There were other problems, many of them. It looked so easy when Mr. Johnson applied his brushes to the stigmas, but I soon learned that this was a minor part of the job. It was necessary to know just the right time of day to cross, and each variety had its own ideas on this subject. For instance, the common Rosa-sinensis is at its best for crossing between 9 and 12 in the morning. On the other hand, some of the native Hawaiian species are not ready until late in the afternoon. It was necessary to learn to use second day pollen with these and many of their hybrids.

Then, some varieties will not serve as either male or female parents, and others can be used for their pollen, but will not seed. In some cases,